

Loyal and Odean Cox  
LaPoint, Utah  
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CD #435

This is Ellen Kiever. Today I am at the home of Loyal and Odean Cox to gather their history. We will start with Odene; she will start with her birth and her parents in Lapoint, Utah.

Odean: I was born August the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1923 in Lapoint, Utah. My parents are Zachariah and Sarah Kump.

Ellen: Loyal tell us about your parents.

Loyal: My name is Loyal M. Cox. I was born in Rupert, Idaho in the ninth month, 13<sup>th</sup> day in 1916. I am ninety-two years old. My father is Lyman Ray Cox and my mother is Anna Dora Christensen Cox. They started their life in Sanpete County, at Fairview. So my folks had went up to Idaho to get some farming work done in there and then after, I was probably about five years old, when we left cause dad got a job with the Oregon Shortline and dad was transferred down to Salt Lake City.

Ellen: Explain to me what the Oregon Shortline was.

Loyal: Well, the Oregon Shortline is a railroad. He was transferred down into Salt Lake and we was a lived in Salt Lake approximately five years again and my folks decided the city wasn't no place to raise boys. There was seven of us in our family, three boys and four girls. They got us guys out of the city and us down into Emery County and we got a little farm down there and dad stayed on the railroad til' us boys got a little farm a goin'. Then after dad quit the railroad he come out and we sold out at Huntington and went down to a little place called Victor, which is just a ghost town now, it is kind of south and east of Price out there about thirty miles. We was able to get a good big ranch there. Our main cash crop was sugar beets. We had to plant, block and clean sugar beats. Then we raised the cattle, hogs and everything that goes with ranchin'. We had a real good place down there.

Ellen: How many acres did you have?

Loyal: We had 1200 acres in one place and then 1500 in another. We was raisin' quite a bunch of cattle, maybe about 400 head of cattle and everything that goes with a big ranch, the pigs, the turkeys, the geese and everything cause we lived out far enough that we never bothered the neighbors. And then once a week it was my job to take an old buggy horse and cream and go up to Price once a week to sell the cream. Other than that we raised everything for the home and we just sell the cream others than just peppers and salts, stuff like that. We raised lots of wheat to make our own flour. We would take the wheat up to the gristmill and grind out our own flour. I remember we used to put out, at

least, about 500 pounds of flour and then we always had neighbors that would come in and we shared with. It was a good life. And a being raised in the city and go back out to the country, the first thing we wanted to do was be cowboys. We had a lot of bad experiences learning how to ride. We roped to but our main issue was ridin'. My older brother, Clyde, he is one of the best saddle bronc riders had down in that area. I was fair but nothin' like he was. He's a good rider.

Ellen: When you were out that far, what did you do for school?

Loyal: We had a bus that come in and took us back to Elmo, that would be about ten miles. Then later on in my life after we moved over onto this other ranch, I didn't get to go to school. I only went up to the fifth grade. I did go a few days in the eighth grade but my education actually stopped in the fifth grade. I had to take care of all these cattle and the horses and we would lease out some of our ground to the sheep men in Price so they could lamb their ewes and get spring lambing crops and everything, we made cash that way. But, I wasn't able to go to school but the truant office would come out to see why not and so he talked to my dad. He said, "What are you doing?" So I told him all the chores I had to do and whatnot. And his answer to my dad was "An education don't come within the four walls of a school house. This boy is getting a better education than most of the seniors up to Price". So I was never bothered again. I could stay out there and take care of the ranch. My older brothers had already, through the depression, had went back into Idaho to get jobs back and forth and to help the family.

Ellen: The seven children in your family, did the girls go to school?

Loyal: Yes, my older sister liked goin' to school. She was getting' up to age and she got married just a little while after we left Huntington. My other sister they come down and went into school. Dad was quite a rancher and he sold out there and that is when we come over here in 1935. My family come here, the family and the girls and my dad. And then he farmed for a while, hen he got a chance to go into Draper, in the chicken business, that was a little faster. That is when I bought him out and he went in there and that was along about the time I was meetin' up with Odean and I was buyin' a place and I needed a nice, good-lookin', little cook so it wasn't long till we got married.

Ellen: Okay, this gets us to your marriage. Odean can you go back, kind of like Loyal did and tell me about your growing up years, your family and your schooling.

Odean: Okay, now where I am going to start is a I was born in a two room log cabin with a dirt roof in Lapoint, Utah, near main street. I had eleven brothers and sisters. Six of them died at an early age. We were a close knit family and a very musical family. There were not many cars then and my dad owned one of the first cars in Lapoint. It was a Chevrolet. My dad owned the store there and our log house was built onto the store. It was just a two little room cabin. Dad owned the first gas pumps in Lapoint.

Ellen: Do you remember how much gas was at that time?

Odean: No, I don't.

Loyal: Nineteen cents a gallon.

Odean: On some of my memories is playing in old Deep Creek and making roads in the sand and there was floods that come down Deep Creek then. My sisters made playhouses in the old granary. We had fun playing in them and herding cows. There was no fences in those days and so we'd take the cows south of town and stay all day. I would go barefooted. Going down the river as a family, I always liked to ride on the fender of the car. Playing "Annie I Over" Mr. Norton's blacksmiths shop and Carl Hacking had a barber shop in town and my sister took me to get a wind blown haircut. I was only five years old. A wind blown haircut, it was so cute. I thought I looked cute. Later, climbing ol' Lapoint Hill, every school child made it their time to climb Lapoint Hill. One time we climbed it and played hooky to do it. One time we decided we would climb Lapoint Hill and we would play hooky, so several of us got together and we went to Lapoint Hill and climbed Lapoint Hill, when we got back the bus had left. It was on Friday, I didn't live to far so we walked. The other kids had to stay with those and the next Monday when we went back to school the teacher told the boys to go down Deep Creek which was right close to the school house and get some big rock. They did. He had them place them at the front of the class and we had to sit on those rocks every recess and noon for punishment. My mother made up a song about it. I wished I had it today, it was so good.

Ellen: I wish you had it to!

Odean: Yea, it was good.

Ellen: Did she make you sing the song for punishment?

Odean: No, we were all laughing about that and it was so fun. Some of the important people in my life have always been my parents, my brothers and sisters and later my husband and my children.

Ellen: Get me up through your school days. Were you active in any church activities?

Odean: I went to Primary, just primary age, in the old amusement hall in Lapoint.

Ellen: Where was that located?

Odean: Well, it was located by the old Star Hall [Theatre] right at Main Street. I don't remember much about it but I went to Primary there.

Ellen: What about you Loyal, do you remember any thing about any religion in your youth?

Loyal: Yes, my father was pretty religious. He liked to go to church every Sunday and get involved. Back in them days, we'd have church and then we'd have a baseball game and then we'd have rodeo and then it was time to go home and milk cows, all on Sunday.

That is when we used to use some of our old work horses; some of them old work horses was the best rodeo horses you ever had. Then take em' out, put em' on a saddle or bareback and then but em' back in the harness and drive home. Good ol' horses. Then when we was talkin' about roping, we always had to have good roping horses cause' we was always out in the mountains and that is when you had to have a good roping horse cause' you had to rope cows, calves and do all the cattle work out in the hills. Them horses had to learn to stand just as good a they would in the arena.

Ellen: You grew up loving horses!!

Loyal: Oh yeah!!! That's my hobby.

Ellen: That's your life next to Odean!!!

Loyal: Next to Odean. She come in about the time I was getting to far with horses. She took over.

Odean: When school started the teacher would ring a bell and we would line up and then we would all be in rows and go in the door and there would always be prayer, always prayer. Then we said the Pledge of Allegiance all the time, every day. My favorite subject was reading. I loved reading history.

Ellen: I was going to ask you when you went out with the cows, did you take a book along or something to do?

Odean: Well, no I didn't because we waded in all the streams and we would pick sunflowers and make sunflower dolls.

Loyal: There would be other girls that would take their cattle out to, their milk cows. The would visit.

Odean: We would take them altogether.

Ellen: When I was visiting with Ruby [Justice] she said she herded sheep for her father. They played marbles.

Odean: I remember one time, Dad; I just loved the piano and I loved music and everything and so Dad wanted me to take piano lessons. I was so scared. As a child I was so bashful I just couldn't be around people. And one of the teachers he got was one of the best teachers in the state, it was Grant Morrill. I was herding cows the first day he come and dad come down to get me and I run and hid because I didn't want to do that. I have been sorry all my life because I didn't learn to play the piano.

Ellen: So you didn't ever learn to play the piano?

Odean: Not till' later, my good friend, Elizabeth Esplin come here and give me lessons. When she was going to have one of her recitals the first time that they were all young students, they were having it up to Tridell and we went up there I was so scared. I couldn't even do it because they were watching me, then I just kind of learned by myself.

Ellen: Have you overcome this fear?

Odean: Yes, we used to get up and sing. We sang all over, my sisters and I, made up songs and sang em' everywhere.

Ellen: You said you sisters, you were raised in a musical family. Did you all play instruments?

Odean: My brother, Cloyd, sang with the choir in St. George and went to London and all over seas and then he came back and went back to Washington DC with this choir. They sang all over.

Loyal: He'd been a good singer. He sang with Tex Ross and the rest of the boys.

Odean: He sang at \_\_\_\_\_. We are just musical. We just love it.

Ellen: How wonderful! I need to bring you one of the Tex Ross books that I History Center has published. Your brother might be in it.

Odean: No, I never sang with him.

Ellen: But your brother...

Odean: Oh he did, he did. He recorded over there in Vernal.

Loyal: I used to MC [Master of Ceremony] all the time. All the \_\_\_\_\_ kids, they would come to get me to be their MC. I would always get Tex Ross to come over here with the young people in the, just over the young groups, and whenever we'd get a marriage we would always shivaree em' and get Tex Ross to come and play and Tex has been a good instrument in our community. Tex used to live right up here.

Ellen: Oh, he did! I didn't know that. I just thought he always lived in Vernal out there in the Ashley area. But he lived here in Lapoint?

Loyal: He lived right up here northeast about two miles.

Ellen: How did you meet?

Odean: Oh! I've got that wrote down here somewhere. My mind leaves me once in a while.

Ellen: Let's let Loyal tell his version? Let's see who chased who.

Loyal: Well, she chased me but I was always handy. I think the first time we met is at a dance up in this ol' Star Hall. Odean was there and I thought she was a cute little girl so I just asked her for a dance and then we got to goin' steady and then her folks moved down here on the farm just north of me about a half a mile and I was anxious to get to farmin' and I couldn't stand my own cookin' so I needed a cook. And I needed a wife. And so, I got to goin' with Odean and I married her. Drivin' a milk truck for the Calder Brothers at the time and running my farm. I run a milk truck up through Farm Creek, down through Tridell, Lapoint and then take it in and wash the cans and have to return the cans for two dollars a day, seven days a week.

Ellen: This was after you were married.

Loyal: Yes! I was drivin' the truck when I was goin' with her. Then we got married and I still drove the truck.

Ellen: And it was still just two dollars a day.

Loyal: Yes, two dollars a day.

Ellen: Did you have to pay your expenses out of this two dollars?

Loyal: No, they just give me two dollars flat.

Odean: We didn't have many expenses.

Loyal: It was there truck so they furnished the gas and everything. Then of course, after I drove the milk truck, they was able to get another guy to take the milk truck, and they was havin' a little trouble to gettin' somebody to drive the cream truck, so they asked me if I would drive the cream truck. So I took the cream truck. That meant I put two days over on the west side and three days over on the east side gatherin' cream. And a then I'd went in the service and then when I come back I got a job with the county working up in the asphalt pit. I done a lot of powder work up there for em' cause I had experience in that outta the Seabees. Then when I left the county, Marvin Smith come and ask me and Gene Nyberg to come and work on the State [Road Department] with him. He had been the foreman on the county and then they put him in as a foreman on the roads, so he come and ask me and Gene to work with him. So one time I was into a meeting; after Marvin had passed away, he had a heart attack and died. I went into Orem to a meeting and one of the gentlemen out of Salt Lake said, "Loyal, how come we get out in the Basin and everybody knows you?" I says, "I tell you why, you drive a milk truck for Calder Brothers and then a cream truck and I also drove the school bus a couple of years and then work for the county and the state, that puts you into just about everybody's house between Neola and the Colorado line." So I met a lot of nice people. One thing I was able to say out there, I was always a neighbor all the time when Marv Smith, Gene was good

men. We'd neighbor with the Indians, the county, the cities, Hy Slaugh was a good feller. He worked in on the county and got to be a county commissioner. He also drove a milk truck. I knew Hy just as good as anything. He was sure a good man to work with. So when you get with fellers like that you sure get along good. So I was able to tell them guys, he said, "Well, you're a neighborin' to heavy with you cities and the Indians." And I said, "No, I'm not, I'll tell you what, out in that Basin, we are still old-fashioned cause our word is just as good now as it used to be in the old days." I said, "The Indian department, if they want a culvert I would just say, 'Go get it'." Or we'd take it. And they would do the same thing for me. The county, if ever we needed something, I could call Vernal City or the County.

Ellen: And it was provided for you!

Loyal: They would come and get it or we'll take it to ya', a lot of good relationships and a lot of good men.

Ellen: You were married and married at the county courthouse?

Loyal: True.

Odean: Loyal Cox was our closest neighbor when we moved to the farm and when he rode by on his horse, "Old Fire" that was it. When we were married, Loyal's brother had a house and so we went to live in that. So we had to have some furniture, so we went out to Salt Lake to get it, first time I'd been to Salt Lake. And a we took this truck and went out there a coal stove, a heaterola,

Ellen: Whoa! What is a Heaterola?

Loyal: It's a nice little, we still got it out here, real nice little perfect stove for the front room. It's a heater

Odean: It's just a heater. But we got the coal/wood stove to cook on and then this little heaterola and the we got a bed and the mattress and a chest of drawers and a washstand and then a little wash basin and a coal oil lamp and it cost us fifty dollars.

Ellen: You got all that for fifty dollars?

Odean: We went to a second hand store and got all that for fifty dollars. And then we come back and moved into this little, well it was a big house but we just lived in the two rooms, that is where we lived. Some of the things that we really liked to do is dance. He was just the best dancer of anyone, Oh.....

Loyal: I was good.

Odean: We danced a lot in the ol' Star Hall and at Victory Park and Docks Beach. That was our fun. We'd go and do that. We would maybe have a dance once a week.

Loyal: When I was workin' with the young generation we'd plan to have a dance every week. That is when it was a dance. And you know it is not hard to be a good dancer if you got a good partner.

Ellen: You enjoyed dancing to then, Odean?

Loyal: She did.

Odean: I did!

Ellen: So, you were a pair.

Loyal: Then we went back out to farmin' and my folks always had good work horses and everything so naturally when I bought Dad out we had two or three good teams. I took Odean, that is after we moved down here, we lived in that part of the house [referring to the back part of their home] I taught her to mow, haul hay on an ol' hay rack. She had quite an experience, then we learned to bake bread. Why don't you tell her how you...

Odean: This is that stove that we got and oh, it was a good old Majestic stove. His mother had had a stove that wasn't quite so good. So I went to make the bread...

Loyal: My mother-in-law, she told Odean "Now, with my stove, I have to spit on my finger and touch the oven and when it gets to sizzlin' then I put the bread in." She never said anything about a Majestic Stove bein' a heavy stove. So Odean she, we had the ol' stove just a bouncin', she put her finger on that stove and it sizzed and she says it's ready.

Odean: Well, in a little while the outside was done but the inside wasn't.

Loyal: All at once, the smoke started comin' out. It was black on the outside and dough in the middle. Oh! We learned together.

Odean: But I can make bread. I made a lot of bread. Cooked all day.

Loyal: Yes, she's a good cook now.

Odean: And then I was gonna say that, it asked here how long for you had children. We went three years. Then we had LaDean. My brother, Jack, got shot. He was climbin' a tree up here. He had took a gun home. My brother first got appendicitis, Cloyd, and it had ruptured. So he was in the hospital for quite a while so then when he come home, Mom and Dad didn't have a car so they had borrowed Dean Cox's.

Loyal: That's my brother.

Odean: And Jack was going to take the car home. He always liked to hunt pheasants and on the way home he was gonna hunt pheasants. There was one bullet left in the gun and



Dean raised the gun up and was gonna shoot it and Jack said, "Oh leave that last bullet and I can get a pheasant." Well, he comes down the road and there's an old tree up here.

Loyal: They had a tree house up there.

Odean: The kids had climbed up in it and so he went to climb up and one of the boards broke and he fell and the gun went off and it killed him. Any we lived right here, and I was out in the yard and I heard that shot. But anyway, I was expecting LaDean. And a when they come and told me, the shock of it caused me to have a miscarriage. I got sick and we sent for the midwife and she come but the baby died. From that, she had to leave and she didn't take full care of me and I got blood poisoning. So, I just couldn't get over that because they didn't have things like they have now days. But they took me to Vernal and gave me, that is when Sulfa drug was first used, and they gave me to much. But the Dr. said, it was Dr. Eskelson, and he said but you still need some more because it is still there. So he gave me some more and it ate up all my red corpuscles.

Loyal: Her blood was white for a while.

Odean: Yea, it was white. I was so sick and I've never ever over it. See when I was younger I'd had the St. Vitas Dance and it left me with a weak heart and I also had that. So that was one of the challenges of my life. Because they said, "Well, you will never have children," and then I had LaDean and then they thought I would never have no more, but I did. So I just thought I might mention that this was quite a challenge for me.

Ellen: Well, the child bearing years were a challenge for you, bless you heart.

Odean: One of the most important things in my life has been my family. I did a lot of canning, raised a big garden,

Ellen: So you learned how to use the Majestic Stove.

Odean: I did.

Loyal: She sure did.

Odean: For many years. I sure liked that Majestic Stove, and my family!

Ellen: Loyal, tell me about your work with the county.

Loyal: Well, I know you want to talk about the county and the state cause you referred to Greendale. I'll tell you just a little short story about the county. Now when I started workin' with the county, Barney Goodman, Boyd Rolf, and Dan Richens, the boys that was runnin' in there and right through the canyon where we started the old timers they would shoot maybe one shot or two shots, that might last a day where we could rip it and and get rid of it. So when Marvin Smith come in as a foreman, we had Shirl Williams and he's a good little powder man and so we had another gentleman just shoot a few holes

and we was up there and run a little short of asphalt. We was movin' it as fast as we could at that time, so I asked Marvin, I said, "Why don't we, let me and Shirl shoot the top off from this ridge and we can go for a year at least." He got thinking about it and he taken it up with the commissioners Grant Southam; me and Grant was in the Navy together and Gordon Hacking, Marv, he considered, so me and Shirl got together and we went up there and man I went all over this dome and down here. Barney was driven a cat. He was the main man in the asphalt pit. So I told him, we got ready to shoot it, I said, "Barney, I'm gonna have one shot go off here and it's goin' to pull that little mountain and this is gonna take all the top off." And Barney's quite a joke, oh ha ha. Me and Barney got along good. But anyway, I said, "Now Barney, when that shot goes off, I want you off the hill way down here by Powell's and that dairy barn." [Barney said]"Oh, I've heard these things," and I said, "No, let's be serious, I want you down there." Well anyway, when we got ready to shoot it, Shirl was going to move one truck and he said, "Doyou want me to leave a truck" I said, "No, when I leave this, I'm gonna run so's I know I haven't got no car to monkey with." But I set em' off and then took off and then took off. Then Shirl said, "Look at where ol' Barney is." And he had just went out on a point and stopped. Oh dear, so the little one went, Bang! and Barney jumped out from under this cat. I said, "Barney, Barney get under that cat, get down under there." And he just dove down under there and KABOOM!!!! Windows in the county shop just rattled. I believe all of Vernal just WOOOOO!!!!!! We never had to shoot it again. Marvin, he was in the county shop and he said, "Oh, I wished you'd have told me what time, I would like to seen that mushroom up." I said, "It sure did, but I thought maybe you would have to fire me after that." But that was a shot there and so Gene Nyberg was workin' with us, he is still on the road committees, but Marvin, he had been our boss in the county so when he put him in the state, he come and got me and Gene to work with him. So when we went over into Greendale, we was down there in 1959, and that is when they cut the ribbon to go across this new swinging bridge. It wasn't the old one. It let the people from Dutch John come over and them people had to come up here from work and some of their old cars couldn't hardly pull that mountain cause they was in bad shape, you know. So just before that, this is the story that I've heard, they had to move the old bridge up toward Manila and they cut it up in sections and they was floatin' down the Green River. It was about the time I was workin' over there. But one of the gentlemen, an engineer, was standing out in front of this bridge and the other boys talked to him of how dangerous it might be and whether he hadn't realized it right then or not, but the bridge hit a rock and jogged and he fell off. I drowned him. It was a week before we found him. We had to put barbed wire down there below, you know the Green River's got that suction, under the bridge. But then, we went over there the Vernal Sands was buildin' the road between the dam and the bridge and they done a fine job in there. Then I had good operators, when I went down to the state then I rehired Boyd and Dan Richens to come down with me on the state and Gene. They wasn't no better operators within Uintah County than them guys, but they was just a good but they was good operators. Anyway, we got to buildin' the roads and we had to widen the roads to go down so trailers and trucks could get across the bridge. Well, I was doin' the shootin' and these other two boys was on cats and Gene was on the patrol. Well, Orem kept comin' out and wonderin' how we was getting' along without people surveyin' the roads and engineers. I said, "We don't need em'." Them boys can make a grade that you just don't believe." So when we

got it done, I called and wanted to gravel the road and they was satisfied. They ended up, along about this time is when the flood come in, in 1965, now I don't remember the amount but that was a lot of snow. In one night it snowed between say four foot of snow, wet snow. Then when the floods started comin', they figured that reservoir up above had washed out but it hadn't. They flew it with airplanes and that. But is so hard, even in the day it was just dark. Harold Ashby was a guard on the road. These folks stopped traffic and I stopped and picked him up and I said, "You're gonna drown standing out in that stuff." But it went a few days and that's when the flood come down and this man parked in a little spot. There was a perfect place to camp. And they had this station wagon and two boys slept in the station wagon and they back up here in a trailer. Well, the people that was acquainted, they talked to them a little bit, but they thought they would ride it out. Well, the next day or two, we was up there looking for it and we figured that station wagon should be down there by two trees that were permanent right there and the family got out and this boys mother was, she said, "Why did he ever station there?" I was standin' there by her and I said, "Lady, you can't believe before this flood. That was a beautiful little parking area. This high water comin' down, you can't believe how deep it is." And we, the state has sent a new Imco out there, we had some work to do with it. We only had twenty-four hour on it, it was brand new and it was there. And the family was wondering what we could do. And I brought the EIMCO down and we was goin' to go down and try to find them boys and Gene was on the EIMCO. He's a good operator, he got in there and Vernal Sands had two seven's and we tied on to the EIMCO so if anything happened and so we could pull it out. We got in there just a little ways when the big bank caved off into the water and just lapped water up into the air filter and it just kinked the rod in the number two cylinder. It flooded out. Well anyway, we didn't want it to happen but it's a good thing it did because they was no way of helpin' out, see. Anyway, we pulled it back out and the family after this happened they could see what it was to try fight a flood like that. And a it kind of settled down a little, but they was grievin' and the lady come over and thanked us for tryin'. So then, when I got down to Vernal, why Orem had called me a wonderin' about puttin' that cat in that big stream and I told our district engineer, "Well, we had thirty people that was family that was there and we had to try somethin'." Well he said, "It's all right, we're proud of ya cause if they started callin' the Governor then we would have wondered. But this way, we're okay. We got mechanics in here that's just sittin' here wantin' to work." So that is what we did, we just sent a transport out and hauled it back into Orem and they just straightened it up, put another cylinder in it and everythin'. That is what we had to do to satisfy the family. Then we found em' all but one. The one boy, he was thirteen or fourteen. He was the bigger of the two boys. We never did find him. But big logs would come down there a rollin' and broke the limbs off and rocks would be in em'. You can't imagine, that was worse than being out in the ocean. That was a terrible storm.

Ellen: Odean, was you ever worried about him on his job?

Loyal: She didn't know what I was doin'.

Odean: You know, I didn't because he so much self-confidence in his self.

Ellen: He didn't share any of these experiences.

Odean: He did.

Ellen: He did and you still didn't worry.

Loyal: I had such a good crew of men with me and backed me. I haven't let you read a letter but I'm going to. I've got a letter in there, we used to go clear out to Dragon, Rainbow, back here and around Lapoint. When I went into to Orem and told them I had 550 miles of roads they couldn't believe it and I had eight men that was keepin' it. And we got a letter in there that we never did have a road closed from storm, snow or anything else.

Ellen: Isn't that something.

Odean: There was just time that I thought was the most dangerous and I don't know why. But you know when they had the swinging bridge he got down under there. T

Loyal: I was puttin' new stringers in.

Odean: Tell her what you were doing and when he come home and told me that is one time I am glad that, you know, I didn't understand all that.

Loyal: Well this is a good story too. Here our district engineer, most of the guys was scared of heights, I wasn't at that time. I had worked out in Ranglely around the rigs. In the Seabees we had to be in high spots. I wasn't scared of heights. So with Marv Smith, I was tellin' him how we could fix, we always called em' Widow Maker's, we would put stringers under there with a beam and set em' in and just go under there and put these stringers in. It was just 105 feet from the bridge down. Here come the district engineer and he looked down there and "by darn, Loyal," he says, "I don't approve of this." I said, "What?" and he said, "you got to have a safety belt and a rope." I said, "I don't want to. Most of the time, if you work your way out here in a touchy area that rope is going to catch a knot or somethin' and pull you off balance and I would prefer not to have it." He said, "Well, I'm the boss and you'll do it." He went and got a harness for me and we let the job go the rest of the day. We went back on the rope, here he come with it, and we down there and Marv was with us. We was standin' there and I put it on and I said, "This is looks like a horses halter on." "Yeah," I said, "Now I'm going to ask you something, you're going to put this on me because none of the rest of you guys dare work from that high height. If I'm hanging down there in this halter who is gonna come and get me." And he stood there a minute, I said, "Who is going to put the stringers under." He said, "You are, give me that back." He took it and left. We got by without no trouble with.

Ellen: Okay, you talked about an EIMCO. Was that the brand of the machinery

Loyal: It was a caterpillar. That's right. Like I said Vernal Sands had two seven's caterpillar's.

Ellen: Vernal Sands, was that a business?

Loyal: Yea, that was the contractors, one of the contractors in Vernal. Leonard Heeney was workin' in there.

Ellen: Leonard Heeney was working in Vernal Sands?

Loyal: Yea, I'm tryin' to think of some of the other boys. Tub McCarrell, but it was so interesting. I was up there the day they put the beams this way and hooked em' together just at the arch.

Ellen: Oh really, on the Cart Creek Bridge? Did you get to go? (directed to Odean)

Odean: No, not then.

Loyal: But we didn't have too much traffic that day. Well they was busy, but they had these cables and beams and just the engineering went together so good that the men up there could just slide the bolt right through.

Ellen: Isn't that magnificent that people can actually visualize things like that. Coarse, we do that when we sew don't we Odean?

Odean: I was just thinkin' these beautiful quilts I used to make.

Ellen: Do you have one you can show me?

Odean: No, I have given them all away. Well, I might have one upstairs. I entered them in the fair and first we put them on the old frames, you know that were so different. I used to do that.

Ellen: Did you used to have a quilt set up here in the front room quite a lot?

Odean: I'll say.

Ellen: The kids crawled under it.

Loyal: Yea and so did the old man so he could make them 2X4's roll over.

Odean: He used to roll them.

Loyal: Well, one of the questions they asked me after I was foreman they said, "Loyal, what was the difference with our oil mulch and the asphalt?" They knowed I had worked in both. I said, "With the asphalt, we take blow sand and maybe we pay two to three hundred dollars a mile just to put a base in it and the asphalt got the whole Uinta Basin out of the mud. Here you put a base 10 to 20 thousand dollars a mile and get a base and then we can just spread an oil mulch. Now I said, "Two ways, we're gaining by usin' the

oil mulch but when it come back to where and tear, I'd take the asphalt." So it did get us out of the mud.

Ellen: We found a picture at the history center the other day, was there a kind of an entry to a mine showing in this picture.

Loyal: Yea, there have been different ways. Now this is years ago, now as you are going back into Vernal they used to, there is an opening there like you are going to go down in and mine that asphalt. Now if you are going back you see all this new gravel in there, I never knew there was that much gravel in there, in that area just a little bit to the north you'll see and oval in there and that is where they used to go in and mine the asphalt. So this is what I'm thinkin'. When we used to go up in the valley, we would go around on Highway 40 and then come up just before you get into Maeser. We had a wagon road go up in there to start with and then just enlarged it so we could get the asphalt out. That is where I decided to shoot that pretty heavy so we could get a lot of it out. Our road crew, we've had a lot of dedicated workers, you know they didn't worry about time. Maybe they wasn't makin' a big salary but you know a lot of times when a guy would haul four loads over here. He'd be late gettin' home but he never said nothin' about overtime. We just wanted to get a job done. They been a lot of times when I been way down in Jensen when it was quittin' time, well I had to come home. It was good. We worked a lot with the good ol'timers and I never heard em' beef much or anything.

Ellen: I think back then people just did their work and didn't complain.

Loyal: We was grateful for the job. You know one thing, now I'm gonna brag, I've done all this and I have never had to ask for a job in my life, Never. People have always come to me.

Ellen: So how did you handle the farming when you worked? Odean you drove the wagons and you helped.

Odean: Well, our boys started awfully young.

Loyal: We've got a picture of Dallin leading the derrick horse when he was horse when he was four-years-old.

Odean: Ya, he lead the derrick horse when he was four-years-old. Terry could milk the cow when he was four-years-old.

Loyal: The cow was easy to milk but he started early.

Odean: And they run that ranch over there. How many acres you got over there?

Loyal: Well, I got 160 acres but they started out with a good eighty acres. And the McKee boys that had tractors and my kids, beins their dad was a horseman he kept horses, but I told the kids "You keep track of the monies that their spending for fuel."

And course, my kids mixed with the McKee kids, they had good friendship but you know each one of them when they got through workin' with horses they was able to buy their car.

Odean: Yeah, Dallin, he had his cousin come and Dallin and Gene would mow and Terry would ride the rake and he was so little sittin' up on that rake that, well he was eight,

Loyal: Well, he had to stand down on the frame to dump that rake.

Odean: They did that whole farm over there. They put up that hay. I can remember when it was time, I cooked their dinner and I would go out and hang up the dishcloth so they could see. Dallin said, "Ohhh, we just couldn't hardly wait to see that dishcloth." Then Dallin got hayfever so bad. His eyes would be swelled shut. But there was no one else to do it so he had to do it.

Loyal: Course, then I always come home, and I would get busy and haul hay or do the irrigatin', change the water.

Odean: Yeah, he helped em' haul it.

Loyal: There was a lot of times...

Ellen: They had a lot of responsibility when they were young.

Odean: They milked the cows.

Ellen: How many cows did you have?

Loyal: Well, the most cows we ever milked by hand was thirty. That was their chores.

Odean: They did it before they went to school, even.

Loyal: Well, this thirty, that was later on in life, most of the time we had about ten or twelve cows.

Odean: And we used to have to separate, if you know what that is.

Ellen: I am familiar with separating. I don't remember the way it was done. I remember watching a couple of times but I was only this big. I don't understand, we milked a milk cow and we would put milk in the fridge and the cream would raise. How did they separate the cream?

Loyal: Now in this separator, like you say, you had the big bowl, most of the time that would hold about five to ten gallon of milk then it come over to a spicket and it went down through this thing where you had what they called disks, there was about thirty disks on a little rod. They were loose, they could spin, the milk would come down and

run through these disks and then come down here and it would separate the milk and the cream and one spout would come out here was cream and this would come out as milk. But it was all these little disks that separated the cream from the milk.

Ellen: But was warm when you put it through here?

Loyal: Right.

Ellen: I just always wondered how it did that.

Odean: Then they would go in the cream cans or the big milk cans.

Ellen: So when you gathered cream, it wasn't that lumpy cream was it?

Odean: When it come out of there it was like milk.

Loyal: When I would go from one ranch to the other, where they had separated it, sometimes if they was in a ten gallon can, that would be lumpy. You would have to take the stick and stir it. This stick was metal and had kind of a cup on the bottom. You would stir that, take a sample and put it in a little bottle and that is how you got the butter fat out of this cream.

Odean: Some cows was better than others so some people would get more for their cream.

Ellen: So you tested the cream before you brought it in.

Loyal: I took a sample and then it was tested in the creamery.

Odean: It was taken to Calder Brothers.

Ellen: Did you have to buy milk or cream?

Odean: We always had our own.

Loyal: Calder brothers was good people.

Ellen: I remember when I was a little girl there was a cream station right there where the Jubilee Store is, on the east side right behind the Echo Park Lodge.

Odean: Calder Brothers was out on North Vernal Avenue. Calders lived there out by the old Highland Dairy Place.

Loyal: That used to be Calder's. Yeah, we had a lot of good times in there. One time I was in there and they was puttin' up ice out of that old pond that was out in back. Some of them boy in the office was runnin', pushin' that ice up there. I told Hyrum Calder, "Mr. Calder, I believe I could help them men a lot." He said, "What's that." I said, "I'll



bring a pulley over here. I got lots of pulleys.” So I took a pulley and told them to buy a long rope and we put it up here on a post and pulley and run this rope over here and run this rope over here and down on that ice, put a truck out there and pull it up there, just like you do a derrick.

Odean: They had their butter and cheese and everything so when he would go on the route, he could take it to the people if they wanted.

Loyal: I could take it back out. Them cream’o bars and stuff.

Odean: Yeah, the cream’o bars and things like that you could carry it in a big sack like thing where they were frozen. Loyal and I, I would go with him quite a few times on the old milk truck and I would go with him over there and we used to go down to the “Little Pig”, Warren Belcher’s place, and we would go down there and get us a hamburger and a malt. We thought that was heaven on earth.

Loyal: Oh, we was out there tearin’ up the town.

Ellen: Now, was this after you had kids?

Odean: No.

Loyal: Before. Well, now I’ll say it like this. We wasn’t plannin’ on havin’ a family right off. We was gonna get acquainted with each other and spend our honeymoon together. So we had three years of it and it was lovely. After we got situated, then we could have our family. But after that when we got the kids a comin’, they had the drive-in up out of Vernal there. Well, each one of the kids, the boys was doin’ good and Glenda was helpin’, what we did was we give each child their night and whatever they chose to do, that’s what we did.

Odean: They could say the show we went to or whatever.

Ellen: Oh, that was so kind of you.

Loyal: It learned em’ to share, whatever one of em’ said, that’s what we done, they still today share and share alike.

Ellen: What kind parents!! That’s so nice.

Loyal: And it’s so fun. It’s surprising how, what the kids will choose to do, cause they’re thinkin’ of us along with their thoughts. They’d choose some of the best shows and then of course midway they would get to the snack bar and get whatever they wanted. The one in charge he could tell what candy bars they wanted or whatever. It was nice and it was fun.

Ellen: What thoughtful parents you were.

Odean: We taught them, we had been taught to work, I felt we had been taught those same things in our family and we taught those kids how to work and we never had no problem.

Ellen: Your children never gave you any problems.

Odean: They never.

Loyal: We're sure proud of em'. Now were back depending on em' you know.

Ellen: That's okay! That's okay!

Loyal: Well, not really, depending on but we do lean on em.

Ellen: Well, you call when you need something.

Loyal: Here a while back one of our friends said a now you're goin' out to dinner. I said, "Yea," "Who's takin' ya?" I said, "Oh, Terry." I said, "It's his turn." I said, "I haven't eat any supper or anythin', boy I'm sure going to get even with him cause I've sure fed him." Oh they all laughed, we had a good time.

Ellen: Have your children done the favor by teaching their children?

Odean: Yes they have. They have got the best children and we've got great grandchildren.

Loyal: You know, I've met a few young mother over to Smith's and around, a lot of the kids is just contended, real good little kids. We speak to em' when we go by. I said, "You know what makes a good child?" and they say, "What?" I say, "Good parents." Course today I make maybe a little excuse because we got things happenin' today that we never dreamed of. You just can't blame all the kids and you can't blame all their parents.

Ellen: Sometimes our world is pretty scary, isn't it?

Loyal: It is.

Odean: There is one thing here I wanted to mention. You know, you asked if we had ever entered any contests or anything. Down in the Standard, this was in, well I was 77 then, but anyway they run a contest for anyone to write a story about their hometown and I did and I won. It says, "Odean Cox, Lapoint, Utah age 77" she is 85 now so that put it about 1998. So I kept this copy and I also made a song to it and the tune and I've got it on tape and I can't find it. It will show up. I don't know if you want me to say it.

Ellen: I would like you to say it.

Odean: I named it Peaceful Paradise.

Peaceful Paradise by Odean Cox

Lapoint is nestled near the majestic Uinta Mountains at the foot of Lapoint hill which stands as a sentinel to my patois community. Often I see the glowing sunrise to light up the day for a people so friendly, the best in the world. We are blessed with an abundance of beautiful vegetable and flower gardens, industrious farmers, fields and productive cattle and horses and plentiful birds. The gorgeous western sunset eliminates a sanctuary away from the world. It's safe and peaceful. Then as the bright moon sheds forth its light we are assured that providence is always with us.

This was the song:  
Paradise, Paradise  
Peaceful Paradise  
I'll always love this spot on earth  
Where joy abounds with love divine  
And I feel secure, my whole life through  
In this peaceful Paradise.

Ellen: That is just wonderful. And you wrote both of those?

Odean: Yes! The prize that you got for the first contest was you could spend the night at a lodge up by Moon Lake somewhere. We couldn't go so we gave Glenda our tickets. They sent us the tickets and so we gave em' to Glenda and her husband. They went up there and spent the night.

Ellen: I know Glenda from the library. She comes in and uses our library. That was nice for them.

Loyal: Yeah, that was nice.

Odean: Glenda went on an LDS mission. She went to the Eastern Atlantic States. That is Pennsylvania and around there.

Ellen: Was that an eighteen month mission?

Loyal: Yes.

Odean: I don't remember.

Loyal: It was eighteen months or longer. She was there.

Ellen: Did your children go to college?

Odean: Glenda did and our boys went to the Navy. They both got a good education in the Navy. Dallin is a wonderful journalist, oh, his stories and Terry is an electrician.

Loyal: He's an electrician and oh, he's good.

Ellen: So at what period of time were you in the navy, Loyal?

Loyal: 1945. I served in World War II. I was in the regular Navy and then changed out and went in the Seabees. I was on five different islands and wound up at Okinawa just about the time the war was over. We was still havin' a lot of fighting but then the war quit August the 10<sup>th</sup> and we still had fighter planes and that over us till' the 17<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ellen: So, some people didn't know that the war was over?

Loyal: This is true. Some of them poor guys didn't know twenty years later that the war was over. But at that time after the war was over, then they would get a group of Japanese together, if they get five, six, maybe ten men and then they would run down, if you had a lieutenant with you or somethin', they was afraid to come in if it was just an American, they was afraid they'd get shot. They had heard some real bad rumors about the American people and this was bad. We had some idiots, you can't see why, they would commit some of these murders but they didn't have to. Course the Japanese, they was supposed to have been pretty bad to our people, too. There is things you can't get over. A guy one time asked me, he said, "I've noticed a lot of them guys that I talk to just clam up and won't talk about the war." I said, "You know why?" "Why?" I said, "They're tryin' to forget it." My older brother, he just passed away here a while back, and he just started talkin' about it. He was in the 91<sup>st</sup> Infantry. Oh, they had it so bad, he just won't talk about it. He had his little crew,

Odean: He received a purple heart.

Loyal: Oh yeah

Ellen: He was wounded.

Loyal: He went out with seven men one day and made it back with three. It was rough.

Ellen: I think that there were some men from that period of time that were meant to make through though. I think my dad was one of those.

Loyal: You know, in some places where the medics come in, gosh, some guys you would think not wounded to bad but the medics have to come in and say that one will live this will die. It depends on if you've got a will to live and whatnot. How can you tell?

Ellen: Well, when you've got 1200 men shooting in 1200 different directions. No one knows what will happen. You both lived through the depression. What do you remember about the depression?

Loyal: Well, Now you're talkin' to an old timer, right through sixteen right on up.

Ellen: Well, the 1930's depression.

Odean: I remember when they took the cattle. They took em' through town and took em' up there and shot em'.

Loyal: Yeah' they had to kill em'. There were too many.

Odean: I am thankful that my dad owned the store. But lots of people went hungry, they did. We had the store so we were okay. Lots of people would come in there desperate but dad couldn't let em' have too much credit. It was hard

Loyal: We was on the farm, we had turkeys and everything and our community, this little town of Victor, at that time the drought; the town didn't have much water, our one ranch we was below Scofield where we had Price water so we took one little acreage up here and made a potatoe farm up there. The community come down there and helped raise them potatoes. So that supplied the town, there was about a dozen families see, and some of the men would come down and help us plant the potatoes or weed whenever they had time and it got us through. For a couple of years it just got up through because we could get water from the Price Reservoir.

Ellen: Some people that I have talked to about the depression eras and the thirties, they have said, "We didn't know that we were poor."

Loyal: This is true.

Odean: Yeah, we didn't know that.

Ellen: Did we get you marriage date?

Odean: I have that right here.

Loyal: October the first, 1938.

Odean: And then we was married Oct the third two years later in the Salt Lake Temple.

Ellen: It didn't take you long to get there.

Loyal: 1941. No it didn't take long.

Odean: We had a lot of things in October. Dallin was borned in October.

Ellen: So when you went through the temple, you went from here....

Odean: Yea, I'll tell you about that. We went with Georgiana and Art [Arthur] Curtis. They had an old Model A Ford. We went out there and we stayed in the worst old hotel you ever.. ....

Loyal: Well, we couldn't afford the best.

Odean: Yeah' we didn't have much money.

Loyal: Harv and Fontella [Taylor] they went with us.

Odean: They didn't go with us but they was in there the same day. Let's see who else?

Loyal: Did Milt and Della [Wooley] go?

Odean: It seemed like it was Milt and Della and my aunt and her husband live in Salt Lake and they come down and was the witnesses for us. I thought that was quite nice. Conference was on at that time, so Georgiana and Art wanted to go to conference. I have grieved ever since because I said, "I don't want to go, I want to stay here and take pictures." Especially since we have heard this last conference, I thought, "Why did I give that up?" That's what you do sometimes when your young and silly.

Loyal: She wanted to take pictures and that's when dad and mother had went back out to Draper and they was up at Sandy, [Utah]. We went out there.

Odean: So we went up there to...his mom and dad.

Loyal: Dad had a lot of tractor work to do and another so I took the tractor and helped him out.

Odean: It was sure a wonderful day. That we got to go... I remember a Grand Rasmussen's wife, Celestia, she was the lady that got me the clothes. She sure was and I've often thought about that.

Ellen: My dad lived with them just down the road from here.

Odean: Yeah, he did, but she was the lady that got me my temple clothes.

Loyal: Yeah, her and Grand was good people.

Odean: They had a girl named Lessa, I remember her.

Ellen: What else do you have on your paper that you want to tell me about? Do you have any memories of any sounds from your childhood?

Odean: Oh, I do. Do you know there wasn't many cars. I could tell what car it was that went by, by the sound of the car. There wasn't many of them but I could do that. And the Victorola, do you know what a Victorola is? I have a perfect thing of sound. It has to be right on or I can tell when it's not.

Ellen: That is why you should have played the piano.

Odean: I can sit down and play it without knowin' the notes because of the sound.

Ellen: Daun DeJournette, she plays the piano by ear like that.

Loyal: Daun was raised just down the street here a ways. Used to come up here botherin' us and

Odean: Loyal and I, like I said we didn't have any children or anything, so we just played. We played with all the kids, the young kids would come down here and we'd play games and we was just havin' the...Daun would come down here and she thought that was the best place in the world. She went home and told her mother, "Oh, when I get married, I want to live just like Loyal and Odean." She would come down here and ...

Loyal: They would play just goin'. We'd play hide-and-go seek with the kids and everything.

Ellen: You must have been just fun neighbors.

Odean: Oh we just had so much fun.

Loyal: Them kids just made it lovely for us. That's the reason we've stayed here.

Ellen: Okay. You said you lived in that part of the house so you built on this part of the house?

Loyal: This and the back part, where I told you to come in, we had right there where you was used to be windows and there was two rooms upstairs and that. That is where we lived, just the four rooms.

Odean: Two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs.

Loyal: So I built this after I come back. See when I first come back we owned that little place up town where Pope's live, where all them pheasants all was and everything, just across the road from the post office. That was a good little place, but I never was raised around town and when I got home I said, "I just can't live in these big cities, I've got to go back to the farm."

Ellen: So you moved back down here.

Loyal: Yeah!

Ellen: Now you said your dad owned property.

Loyal: Yeah, he started buyin' this and then I bought him out.

Ellen: So this was the original, original Cox Corner.

Loyal: Yeah, this goes way back. He didn't stay here very long.

Odean: He didn't stay here very long. There wasn't a corner then. There was one thing that I was going to tell you about. We didn't talk about a Christmas tradition that I liked. You know, my dad lived, we lived in town and he run the store. Well next to us a lady, she was a widow that come there with two boys and she run kind of a little hamburger stand or a little thing. They were havin' it real hard and so one night mom fixed up a little wagon and she put the food in it and Christmas things. Me and my two brothers, when it got kind of dark, we took it to her. Oh, she was so overcome with that. And so she said, "I'll make you some hamburgers." That was the first hamburger I ever tasted. That was one thing I just had to tell you about.

Ellen: Probably when you were growing up you both didn't get as much as we give our kids now days by far.

Odean: If I got a doll and we always hung our stocking up and we'd get an orange or some candy and we was the happiest kids that there is. We'd hang our stocking on the chair. We'd each have a chair then we would get our things there. I don't know how Loyal done.

Loyal: Well the one thing that I remember is my brother just older than I am, he's kind of fancy. Anyway, we got a pair of spurs, one spur [each], share and share alike. Sometimes I could ride em' and sometimes he. The next morning he's looking at em' and puttin' em' on and they look so nice on him. I said, "You know, I believe I'll let you take my spurs from now on." Dad said, "Why?" I said, "My horse don't need spurs." I had a good horse, too. We had a lot of good Christmases.

Odean: But you know he was always so..., he didn't even know the word selfish.

Loyal: That don't do you any good.

Ellen: I can see that!!!

Odean: And you know what? I've always come first in his life.

Ellen: That's so nice!!!

Odean: While we was talkin' here I should say that because as we've grown older and I've had this real bad sick spell, I've just thought I don't think I could live without him. But there will be a time I guess.

Loyal: It's just like you said, I was raised in a time when people was neighborly and they didn't have to be but they was neighborly. Kids talk about workin' cheap or back and forth, like I said I was the youngest out of the four, I could name days that I'd take a team and a mower and go to my neighbors and mow hay so we get the hay in before it rained. The first thing you know, they'd be back helpin' us do this or this, get up a wheat field. \



Ellen: Neighbors just don't do that anymore.

Odean: No, they don't.

Loyal: A lot of our good neighbors, he got a big binder, that is when we had to bind the wheat and it come out in a bundle, you know. He come over and told my dad, he said, "Now I'm just work my horse beyond the period, if you'll let me take your horses I furnish the binder and cut your grain." Dad says, "That's no problem, just go pick out any of the three that you want." We always give him a good quiet team, that's the way life was.

Odean: When Dallin was, he hadn't started to school and Loyal was fillin' in a septic tank thing up there and he had to have some rock and they went over there on the hill. Well, Dallin and his little buddy climbed the hill and Dallin fell down and he hit his head. Loyal came right home but it was bleeding quite bad. But when he fell a piece of grave entered in right here by his eye, well it went on for a few days and Dallin started takin' convulsions and he would hide it, and we didn't now what was wrong cause he would just be all right and then all at once he would just fall over. So, Loyal took, well, I was expecting Glenda, Loyal took him down to the doctor and he happened to have one of them right in the doctors office and so he called Salt Lake and they made an appointment to take him to Salt Lake. I could't go cause I was expecting Glenda. They took him out there and what had happened when he fell down the hill a piece of gravel went in there and it let an air bubble in there and it hit on his brain and when that air bubble would hit a certain part of his brain he would just loose control of himself.

Loyal: Yeah, a young doctor showed me how the brain goes in waves and he said the this air bubble would get right here that will jump up and hit the air bubble and that will paralyze him and that is when he falls. Then when he falls, that moves so he is normal.

Odean: But Dallin was scared so he would try to hide it but it was getting worse. Anyway they went in there and they saw what it was and they said it could be dissolved and so they give him Phenobarbital and oh for headaches. Then he started taking convulsions, I'd never been around convulsions before. That was quite something. But he took Phenobarbital till he was twelve years old.

Ellen: That's a dangerous drug.

Loyal: Yeah, it is and just a little kid.

Odean: And I started to tell you

Loyal: It was such a little accident that

Odean: The reason I started tellin' you this, when you was talkin' about neighbors. Well it was when the hay was just ready to be cut and Loyal had a big field of clover. Course, he had to go to Salt Lake and his neighbors come and put up that hay.

Loyal: That hay was ready to cut when I went and I was out there about ten days. When I come back why here was clover hay and I can only cut it one way. And I raked it and it got like a lariat from here to there. Oh! I was havin' a mess. And tryin' to work with it and I hired a couple of guys to help me and the first thing I knew, here come Doc Van and Elmer Hackford and they had the old push rakes and stuff. Why they got over there pretty good time in the morning and we had that put up that night. Then just a little bit later, Melvin Hackford he got sick and he had a hayfield down there and I think there was about eight of us showed up. Why! We had that mans hay up and stacked in no time.

Ellen: I don't even know my neighbors anymore.

Loyal: That's the way we are, the younger generation and you know what bothers me is the younger generations is comin' so fast that they don't know me.

Odean: The one thing I did want to tell you about Glenda, a when Glenda decided to go on mission. The night she was to have her farewell thing she got this awful earache and they gave her a blessing and it quit and just completely quit till we came home and then it just started up again, just a terrible headache. So we took her down to the doctor and when those kids, Glenda had a doctor set, and when they was little kids they put a BB in her ear.

Loyal: Medicine right in the ear.

Odean: Yeah! They had to get that BB out of there. We do not know why but if she would have went on her mission.

Loyal: We got it all took care of before her before she left.

Odean: Then I got to tell you somethin' else. One time, the kids used to have to go get the cows and over on the range at night and bring em' over to milk em'. One night they were going over there. Glenda and Dallin was on the horse, I don't even know if they had a saddle on there, I think it was bareback. And they got down here by Walker's and a big ol' pig come out and the horse shied and they fell off. Well, Dallin, Mrs. Walker come runnin' out and Dallin was just covered with blood because he had hit the side of his head and Glenda was just layin' there. So Loyal was workin' on the county and he was up to Arvil Swains', he had come in there. So Mrs. Walker brought the kids and come and we went up there and I'd already went up to get Loyal. But I ran over to Dallin because he was well the blood. She said, "Odean, I think it's your little daughter that is really hurt. She had a concussion and so we took her to Roosevelt. You know how you do with concussion, you just vomit and awful headache so they just give her somethin' to make her sleep. But Glenda, you know so that she would go to sleep because they figured maybe it would wear off. And Glenda just adores her dad, no matter when her dad is around. He would go down there and she'd say, "Don't give me that when my dad's here." But anyway finally the doctor come and said, "I can do no more for your daughter." So my mother, we didn't go to church or anything, we wasn't active in the

church but my mother told me, “You go have a blessing. Give that girl a blessing.” So my brother, Adrian, and Mr. Walker gave her a blessing. W brought her home the next day.

Loyal: Yeah, that cleared that up just over night.

Odean: Glenda often has said that that was the turning point whether she was to stay or go. But she knew that when she stayed that she had a mission to perform. She has bore six children and most of em’ has went on a mission.

Loyal: All but two.

Odean: And married in the temple. Jeffery just come off from his mission. Everyone of them have gone on a mission and been married in the temple. And I am sure that Jeffery will be. And she said that that is why she remained and didn’t go. She said that LaDean is doin’ her part there and I’m doin’ mine here. I thought I wanted to tell that.

Ellen: You said that your mother and father were never active in the church.

Odean: Well, they weren’t at first but they finally went out to Salt Lake and were married in the Salt Lake Temple.

Ellen: Because your brother, Ad, wasn’t he a bishop at one time?

Odean: Oh yeah.

Ellen: He drove the school bus.

Loyal: Yeah, we met a lot of girls, [they would say,] “Oh, I know Adrian, he used to be our bus driver.

Ellen: He’d drive us to Salt Lake. We would want him or George D. Merkley to drive us to Salt Lake because they were the nice bus drivers.

Odean: Yeah, mom was a very, she had a wonderful testimony. Her mother left England because her folks disowned her. She left there at fifteen years of age. So she taught my mom.

Ellen: So they knew what was right. I’ve noticed while we’ve been sitting here how busy your road is.

Loyal: It is busy.

Odean: Oh yes, especially at five o’clock.

Ellen: It’s quite busy and it has just got more busy through the years that you’ve lived here.

Loyal: Now with some of the boys that's in the roads now, as you know our road is just about like Highway 40 used to be, as we got a lot of traffic. But luaus, you get on Highway 40, it's nothing to get fifty cars lined up. So we need to be widening Highway 40, definitely.

Ellen: We live out on the new Bonanza Highway Road. It has been about a year now that I was coming home at about a quarter to six at night and I counted 123 cars that I met in a three mile period.

Loyal: I don't doubt that, it's just busy. This is busy. They start 4:30 in the morning. People from Neola is going to work. People over here is coming to work.

Odean. Well, I might tell you the comparison, when Loyal and I were first married and we just had that room and the window was up like this. If we'd be sittin' there, we'd raise up if we saw a car go by. Odean giggles

Loyal: Then our friends would say, "Hey we know you're home."

Odean: I just told you the comparison.

Ellen: Now if you raised up you would be up all day.

Loyal: Yeah, Way early in the morning till late at night. Then we had another experience, when Glenda got through with her mission, I had a cousin that lived up in Odgen. I don't know what Fawn was doing but she had lost her husband, anyway, she had a little business goin', anyway Glenda stopped off up there and helped her work for a while. Well a young girl come in and gave a resume and talking about her job and the experience she had had and Glenda was going through it. Then it come time and Glenda said, "Where do you live?" "Oh," she said, "I live in such a little town, nobody knows about it and I kind of ashamed to say it." Well Glenda said, "Try me?" She said, "I'm from a little town." "Oh," she said, "I live in Tridell." Everyone giggles. Glenda said, "You know where Cox's Corner is?" "Oh, yeah." "I'm one of them Cox's." What a deal it is. It's funny who you can run into and meet and everything.

Ellen: Did all your kids graduate from Union [High School]?

Loyal: Yes.

Odean: Eighth grade and then I got married. I got married when I was fifteen.

Loyal: I didn't want her to go to school.

Ellen: Oh, no wonder all the neighbor kids came and played.

Loyal: She was still just a kid.

Odean: I was fifteen in August and got married in October. I was just a little kid. We just played around.

Loyal: Well, my buddies say "Yeah, you marry that little ol' girl to boss around." I said, "Well, I had figured but it backfired." I said, "I'm the one that is henpecked."

Odean: Well Loyal always said he married me so he could raise me like he wanted to. But we had fun, good clean fun.

Loyal: We grewed up together.

Odean: We just together.

Ellen: For seventy years.

Loyal: The cheapest transportation that we had, I finally raked up enough; I believe I traded off a good calf and got her a bicycle.

Odean: Oh yeah, I was going to tell you about that. I had this bicycle and my mom lived up there about a mile and so I'd tie my clothes on the back of the bicycle because she had a hand washer. I'd go up there and do my washing. Loyal, one time, he was going to go for a load of coal up Deep Creek and so we put my bike on the load of coal. We'd put it on top of the wagon goin' up the hills and then I'd ride it down the hills.

Loyal: Then from here to town I always had good saddle horses.

Odean: Yeah, I could ride to town on my bicycle or a horse.

Ellen: Okay, you keep saying town, is that the town of Lapoint?

Odean: Yes.

Ellen: Tell me about the town of Lapoint?

Odean: Well, there is some pictures of it. When we was there.

Loyal: When you get back up to where Pope's live, that was our place, when I was in the Navy. Then there is the Post Office, the next place there is one single building left,

Ellen: That used to be Stockman's.

Loyal: Well, that used to be the pool hall, and in back of there was some apartments. Next to there

Odean: Well, before that it was a drug store and where I got my hair cut.

Ellen: So there was quite a little community there.

Loyal: Oh yeah, there was a lot of buildings pretty solid along main street.

Ellen: That just surprises me. I didn't have any idea. I knew about the Star Theatre.

Odean: [Showing a photo] See that is Dad's gas pumps. That is my dad's.

Loyal: That is up there where Dick Perry is there on that corner.

Odean: And this is the Star Hall and that is that amusement hall where I was baptized. This is the old Post Office. This is the meat market where that girl got us the hamburgers. And this is Ad Kump's garage. He had a big garage in there where they fixed cars.

Ellen: [Looking at a photo] Where was this?

Odean: That's the chapel, the first good chapel.

Loyal: It was across from the school house.

Odean: And this is the old schoolhouse.

Loyal: Oh, what do you call that little thing across from the school yard there. They got, well they go in there and reunions. The pavilion, well that is where the old chapel used to sit, right there where that pavilion is.

Odean: This is some of the grain stacks. This is em' stackin' hay. This is a store that dad had.

Ellen: How did they get them [grain stacks] that high?

Loyal: Sometimes there would be a man on a wagon throw it up and then they would have a bundle turner in the middle throw em' on that. But I was good a makin' them stacks. Guys would come and hire me. Boy, I liked to stack hay and grain.

Ellen: What happened when the snow got on it?

Loyal: That grain is put with the heads up, like this. That's the reason they put em' in stacks, then that would shed the water and it would run off. Then you could thrash in the winter if you didn't get it done. I would just run off like shingles on a house. Yeah, I made a lot of them big stacks.

Ellen: I wondered because I know what snow does to hay if it is not stacked proper?

Loyal: If it gets wet. Now the way we used to... when we used to put up the hay the old fashioned way in hay stacks. We would do the same as that with the hay, keep the middle

of the stack full and then winters hit it and the moisture will only go down about that deep, all the rest of it was just perfect grain. You had to know when and how to put it in there.

Odean: This woman was the Post Mistress from 1917 till 1921.

Ellen: What was her name?

Odean: Dorothy Thompson.

Ellen: Was that her husband?

Odean: Cyrus Thompson.

Ellen: You have all this history going on for you?

Odean: Oh, I've got more than that. I've got a paper there that I wrote down about the history. Well, I don't know.

Ellen: What was your favorite spot in the town area.

Odean: Oh, I don't know, old Deep Creek was...

Loyal: The old Star Hall.

Odean: The old Star Hall, definitely.

Ellen: Well, yeah, if you were only fifteen when you got married, you were still in the play stage of you life.

Odean: I'll tell you something. I used to love to play paper dolls. Loyal had a sister the age of my sister and so we would cut out paper dolls. Well one time, we was playin' paper dolls and Loyal come to take me on a date and I had to run and get rid of the paper dolls. I played with my grandkids. I played with my kids. I made it a point that when my grandkids come, that's it.

Loyal: My granddaughter and my great-granddaughters used to come and curl my hair.

Odean: They'd lay him down on the couch and then they would permanents in his hair and even his great granddaughter, Morgan. She was a rough one.

Loyal: She would come in and curl my hair and then she would take the ol' comb and WHAM!!!! You're done.

Odean: And once they put the curlers in his hair. It was when he was workin' on the road. They had put finger nail polish and Loyal just loved it. One of them bosses from the state come out and they called him in and there was Loyal with them curlers in his hair.

Loyal: It didn't bother me. It was fun though. Every one of my grandkids and great-grandkids come and we'd wrestle. And we'd wrestle and I got them so that every time they got old grandpa down, they'd jump up and hold their hand up cause they won.

Ellen: You don't wrestle much anymore, do you?

Loyal: No, I don't have nobody to wrestle with. My grandkids are all growed up and left. But when they get here we wrestle. My grandsons, huh huh, their to big and husky now. Did you ever know Orval Hullinger?

Ellen: I did he was the principal at Maeser

Loyal: Me and him was raised together. He was raised right up there. Me and him was young guys chasin' around together.

Ellen: So did you ever come to the Friday or Saturday night fights?

Loyal: I used to be a pretty good boxer. Orval was a wrestler. We would go somewhere and I would sign up for boxin' and he'd wrestle. I know we had a lot of fights. I used to be with him to put those fights on down to the ol' Red Barn and then in Salt Lake. Orval was in touch with a lot of the wrestlers and that. Yeah, he was a pretty good buddy.

Ellen: So was this before he was a school teacher

Loyal: Yes, he was just startin' to go to college. Have you ever heard of Windmill Pierce? That big fighter.

Ellen: No.

Loyal: He was a fighten' man. He fought just like a windmill. I'd had different kids from Vernal and Lapoint and would match them up with outside fighters. Some of our boys out here done real good, them city boys thought they was tough but get one of them farmers they didn't know enough but just hit a guy. Them guys would dance around a little bit and then KAPOW! They was down and out.

Ellen: Didn't Orval's brother live over here?

Loyal: Well, Jess was an uncle. Jess lived down there. Harvey lived up here. Harvey was Orval father. Jess lived down in Ballard. He was a great big old husky fellow.

Odean: Harv Hullinger was my teacher. He was the one that we had to sit on the rocks. He was teachin' us a lesson.



Loyal: I was a scout master, kind of working a little, I didn't get time to do to much scouting. Errol Hullinger, he was Orval's brother and was killed down in the twists, anyway him and Reid, Reid was just younger than Errol. Anyway, they was havin' trouble up here with the boy scouts and in the meeting so the first thing I knowed, here come ol' Harvey down and said, "Loyal, we gotta do something with them scouts. You come up here and take it." I said, Well, I'll try." So I went up and got down there, so what they would do; a group of em' would get around and one of them would jump up and turn the light out and a time or two they would get together and throw the teacher down or run up and turn the lights out.

Odean: You know how kids do.

Loyal: They was just havin' fun. Anyway, I got in there down to scout meeting and I said "Well, I haven't been here very long and don't know enough about your lessons so let's just talk about rope. Let's tie rope." So we was going along and some of em' showed me how tie knows and I was showin' em' how to tie a hackamore and all at once Errol got on the bench and got under the light. I took my rope and stepped here and just measured just about where Errol was and just when he tightened his pants right good to reach for the rope; I snapped him and he howled. And the whole bunch of us had to laugh at the way he screamed. Boy, I got him a good one. All of us laughed so much. He went to sit down and I said, "You don't have to sit down, Errol. I'm good at hittin' horses too you know." So we bragged about how I could throw a whip and anyway it went till the next mornin' and lause it was like a "C" shape where that rope had got on his leg there. It was swollin' up there so he sit down kinda careful. Harvey looked at him and said, "What's the matter?" [Odean is giggling in the background] Reid said, "You ought been there." "What to you mean?" "Oh," he says, "We laughed, Ol' Loyal poked ol' Errol." Little brother tellin' on big brother. He said, "He just screamed. Didn't you hear him over to the house." Harvey says, "No." He said, "He hit you?" "Yeah," and then Errol thought he was going to get a little sympathy "Yeah, he hit me." "Let's see." So Errol let his britches down and seen that and ol' Harvey hit it just like that BANG!!! Errol screamed again, he said, "You know why Loyal was up there. I went and got him cause I knew what would happen." Oh and then one time, these Lapoint kids got so bad they couldn't hardly keep a guy drivin' the school buses. Oh, they got wild, mean to the driver. I went up there and Cyke Thompson and Hank Swain "You get up here to a meeting." "I don't want to go."

"Get up here." I went up there to a school board meeting. They was talkin' about bus drivers. One little kid doing a pretty good job but he kicked a kid off the bus so this kid went home and so the next day the kid and his dad went down and the dad told him, "Don't you ever kick my kid off the bus." This dad reached up and said, "What would you do?" I said, "I'd a probably took the old dad and shook him up and took him and the kid back up to his wife and told her 'You better raise both of these kids up.'" And I got the job. I didn't want to drive no bus.

Odean: He was a good bus driver!

Loyal: So I got the job of driven the bus.

Ellen: This wasn't Don Davis, by chance.

Loyal: No.

Ellen: Don I Davis told me that he got kicked off the school bus once.

Loyal: Ol' D I

Ellen: We went and did his history a couple of years ago. He is a hoot.

Loyal: They're a wild bunch. He wasn't like some of em. But like I said, most of the kids knew I'd been around and in and out of the Navy. I drove the kids to Union, the first two years they started Union. And the reason they thought they might have trouble is they thought mixin' Roosevelt and Alterra and all this, they thought they might have some trouble.

Odean: Loyal got along so good those kids. He drove up to Tridell.

Loyal: Well, I started at Lapoint and I get along with the Lapoint kids. Like I said, I had been in Mutual with em' and everything. So the first thing I knew, the guy was havin' a little trouble with the Tridellers. So he talked with the man that run the school buses down there. Floyd Workman was really the top man. Anyway, "We'll trade Loyal here." I took the Tridell route, they were good kids. Then all at once, here's a guy up there that couldn't get along with the Indians. So "Yeah, I'll take em." It was about twelve or fourteen head of Indian kids in back. Then all I had to do is just us a little physiology, you know. Here's this little Indian kid. He was a good lookin' little bugger. And he was up there just makin' motions. I could see him. And the little Indian girls were giggling. All I had to do was say, "Okay, Clark Gable, we've had enough now and sit down." And all of em' did laugh at him being Clark Gable. It embarrassed him. From then on...

Odean: That one kid from Tridell that come there and was throwin' airplanes. What was his name?

Loyal: Oh, Cotton Morrill.

Odean: Yeah, I was thinkin' about that cause they used to throw them.

Loyal: He's a good bishop and everything now. Well, this little guy, gosh, we parked our buses together up there to Lapoint, in that old building. He come in one night and I guarantee you he had two bushel baskets full of airoplanes, paper airoplanes, that he was throwin' you know.

Odean: The kids would just throw em' while he was drivin' that bus.

Loyal: And I made the mistake, I said, "My word, what are you doin? I wouldn't put up with that." Well, um, um, and the first thing I knowed, I was driven to Tridell. Anyway,

we was going up around the bench, you know, and going back and forth and all at once a little airplane come up and dove down, you know. I didn't see nobody. I just kept a going. All at once I look up in the mirror and here's Cotton Morrill, one of my good little buddies airplane. "Hey, Cotton." "What?" I said, "Bring it up here." "No, I'll save it." "No, bring it up! Else you might knock the windshield out of this old bus. Bring it up" He come up and I had to pack a bucket, the radiator was leaking and every once in a while I had to fill it till' they get it fixed. He put it in the bucket and sit there on his toes and we talked and we talked about different things. I told him who won the war. Finally, he said, "Boy, my legs is goin' to sleep." I said, "Alright, you've took it for quite a while, why don't you go on back and sit down." He just went back down. When we got to his place, "I'll never throw nothin' on this bus again." And they didn't. The only time they ever throwed anything on the bus was some of the Goodrich girls and some of them seniors, they was the nicest people. I would get to visitin' with them and then I got to meet some of their children, see, but anyway, this one time we got down there and they got together and they said, "Now Loyal," Mr. Cox, they was all nice. "Mr. Cox, were seniors and think we should be able to ride at the front of the bus." I said, "I do to. I think that would be a good idea." I said, "All you guys, get out of here and get to the back and let these girls sit here." So they got in there and showed off a little bit. I got em' to school, but I let them off and then when they got off I shut the door and I said, "Now look, let's get even with them guys tonight." We'll give em a peanut buster shower." I said, "Here's some money, go buy peanuts." So that evening, they got there and the girls started coming and I said, "Now look, we's good enough to let you girls sit up here in front. Now tonight you can sit in the back." "No, we don't want to do that." I said, "That's the way it goes, right's right. You get in the back. So they got in the back of the bus. They was grumblin', some of em', one or two of em' still grumblin'. We got out to what they call Seeley's Corner, that's out there where Beau Valley and all those oil rigs is on that road. We got out there and I turned off that road and I said, "You kids is not satisfied yet." I said, "I still here some grumblin'." The girls says, "We're not satisfied, we think that was kind of a dirty trick." Well I says, "Guys, just give it to em'." The kids got up and throwin' peanuts and everybody laughin'. They would grab em' off the floor and throw peanuts. And I pulled in down to Tridell and you know, them kids picked up every peanut shell there was. They cleaned that bus till you couldn't believe it. The just had fun. I still see em'. We had a lot of fun.

Ellen: They remember that.

Loyal: Oh yeah! They still laugh at some of those things.

Ellen: You kids were good!!! People. I wish you were my bus driver.

Loyal: I had one or two kids that got on there that was just gonna show how they was. It didn't work. Another time, we had an ol' boy from over south of Myton. He was an older gentleman and his health wasn't too good. He was drivin' the bus. Some of them seniors at Union and the older kids, they was over in that country and they would throw cattails, little buds and stuff. One day, me and Ivan Rogers was sittin' on the bus and he come over and sit there with us and talked to us. Fact is the old gentlemen that's all he could do

for a livin'. He kinda just about cried a little. He'd take the kids out and he's take em' up to farms, excursions, and look at the sheep and the last go round, Mr. Hutcheon, he come down and he said, "Loyal, I guess you'll have to take the bus. Mr. Smith don't want to drive that way anymore, just going out to them farms, the kids actin' up. We went out quite a ways prêt near up to Tabby and back and got up where the office is for the telephone is, come up on that bench. These boys was actin' up pretty good. So at a wide spot in the road, I pulled over. I said, "I been wantin' to talk to you gentlemen." "What do you mean?" I said, "You know, that ol' bus driver, you guys was able to make him cry." I said, "I was just wonderin' how many of you want to try me and see if you can make me cry." I said, "One, what about two." They just sat there. I said, "What are you, chicken? Pickin' on an old man like that." I said, "Why don't you try me. We won't say nothing to Hutcheon or nothin'. Just have a good little strap." Finally one kid, he said, "Well, maybe we'll all." And the kids that was ridin' my bus says, "Yeah! Lets get out of here and all of us could have an old free for all. We'll back our old truck driver." I said, "Well, we don't want to go that far. But I want to tell you boys I think you're pretty well chicken." Then I sat back down and went there. If they was good decent kids we'd get along good. I don't like to be pushed around.

Ellen: Do you ever seen any of these kids?

Loyal: Yeah, I do. I ran into some of the boys. Yeah! Course it's got older now but still when I was getting' up to that age I walked right over to em' and reminded em' of it. But they change and they grewed up.

Odean: Being his was their bus driver, they would come and talk to him.

Ellen: Isn't that nice that people remember things like that. They remember that day. They might not have liked the day you were saying it.

Loyal: They didn't like it then, but I didn't like it either. They could tell that to see a man pick on a kid pick on an old man.

Ellen: Odean, it's your turn. Do you have anything that you want to tell me right now. Each of you tell me about when you learned to drive.

Odean: We are both thinking of the same thing, aren't we?

Loyal: Well, I've been drivin' since I was eight-years-old, drivin an ol' Model T in Salt Lake. See we lived on 2<sup>nd</sup> West and 6<sup>th</sup> North but there wasn't too much traffic then. I'd take this ol' Model T and go down there and go down to West High School turn around on 2<sup>nd</sup> West and come back and go down our alley where we lived.

Ellen: When you were eight-years-old?

Loyal: Yeah!

Ellen: You could reach the pedals?

Loyal: Yeah, I could reach em' after you get down there and pull on the steering wheel and make it all work. Them ol' Model T's had three pedals, on for the clutch and make you go and one in the middle for reverse and the other side was the brake. That's how the ol' Model T's was. So it would just go around like that. And then of course, we moved out to the farm and I was drivin' the ol' Model T's. So I just naturally drove trucks and everything. And I'd drove about eighty-eight years and never had a confessed wreck and one ticket.

Ellen: Not one ticket!

Loyal: One ticket, that was so idiotic. It's the only time on to somebody else. But we was going down to Cloyd's place, Odean's brother, and we went over to Dinosaur and down to Dragon and down there. Up on Douglas Pass, there had been two kids come up there and had a fender bender and there was a little patrolman and he's lookin' at it. We just inched on by and went on down and goin'. Finally, there was a big bull in the road, right in the middle of the road, so here's a ledge and so I went around his rear end and got back on the road. Well, here's this light and so I pulled over and stopped and I could see down the valley quite a ways. I says, "What's the problem?" He said, "You crossed that yellow line." I said, "So did you." "Well," he says, "I was in pursuit of an outlaw." So we got talkin' about our problems anyway, I told him, "Well, here's the situation," I said, "I'm not going to hit the bull. Nor I'm not going around there and fall off that ledge." Well," he said, "I can see that, so I'll just reduce the charge." He soaked me seven dollars. He had started writin' the ticket which they do and so I said, "I'll pay it." Then I said, "Anyway you follered me." So when he signed the ticket, I signed my name and he signed his and I be darned if he wasn't a Cox, Lorin Cox. I looked at that and I said, "I'll be darned! Just call me Christensen from now on. That's my mother's name and I said, "I don't want to be related to you." He apologized. One ticket in all that time. There are times that I maybe pulled one a little better than that and got away with it but just, that is so idiotic. There's times when I took a ticket, I wasn't able to read lips at this time, but one time, we was goin' to chip the roads from the Bonanza Junction to Colorado Line and we was goin' out there with some trucks and I was in the pickup and the guy called me right quick and he said, "Loyal, this other truck won't start." Well I wasn't clear out to Naples, I don't know whether I had my signal lights on or not, but man I had to get back and get that truck comin' cause all the oil and everything bein' soft. WHAM! I pulled the wheelie dealie right in 40 going back and here's this lady whirled out around me and got [Loyal move his mouth like the lady might have been upset]. I was sure glad I couldn't read lips. Boy, was she ever mad.

Ellen: Was she hot at you!

Loyal: Boy, was she ever mad.

Ellen: Odean, tell me about your learning to drive.

Odean: I was married for I learned how to drive.

Ellen: Who taught you?

Odean: Loyal. What little bit I knew.[Odean giggles]

Loyal: She gained til' after.

Odean: We had an old car and I thought I was pretty good and I had these girls in with me. How many did I have? We were married and we lived here? Let's see, who did I have in with me?

Loyal: I think Fern was out here and you had LaRae

Odean: I just thought I had some young girls. But anyway, we got in the car.

Loyal: Some of my nieces was out and they would drive with Odean.

Odean: And we decided that we would ride around the block. That I would take em' around the block. I just thought, Oh I'm just happy to be drivin' and I felt kinda proud of myself and we went up around and we passed the house up there where some people lived and I thought oh man they're seein' me. I'm drivin and everything. I come on down here and they were talking and I went to pull in and there was a big ol' post.

Loyal: I used to have a barbed wire fence and a cedar post there.

Odean: Well, I wasn't watchin, I was lookin' at them and I just clumb that post, just went right up that post. And when I knew that I was headed towards it I went to put on my brakes but I put on the gas. So I just went right up that post.

Ellen: Did it hurt the car very much?

Odean: It just hung there. And I just run down here and I said, "Oh!! Loyal, come look, I've done something." And there was a car hangin' up on that post.

Loyal: Well, what it was I had bought me a real nice little '39' Ford Coup, gosh it was a good little car. It was second handed, but prèt near new. It hadn't been broke in yet. I was able to get it real cheap. I didn't want her to learn in that so I went up town, this Mr. Norton that had the blacksmith shop, he had an old **Oakland** and he sold it to me for forty dollars. So I thought, Well I'll buy this old car so she can learn it. So she went around here and I had that big cedar post, this was barbed wire fence but anyway on this post there was a big knot. But she gassed that went just up far enough and the ground was wet and the post leaned over and it went up and hooked on to this knot.

Ellen: The bumper hooked onto the knot.

Loyal: So she couldn't back off of there.

Ellen: So it didn't even roll off.

Loyal: No. It was hangin' there. Here she jumped out and the kids jumped out and they come around and she had done somethin'. I come back down and it was wet under there and so I put the car in gear and just pushed the post over. But it had a good old metal bumper on it and everything. It was solid.

Ellen: It was a good solid car for you [Odean] to learn to drive in.

Loyal: She turned out to be a good driver. Then she took that little Ford when she got to drivin' it, she didn't want to hurt it any. She got drivin' so slow I said, "Odean, you got to drive faster than that or the oil wouldn't go up in these pistons." She was doin' about five or six miles an hour.

Odean: After that I didn't drive to fast, did I.

Loyal: No, You got to drivin' just right. A couple of the other girls just barley learned to drive after she had. Man all a once they got to doin' this eighty or ninety mile an hour stuff. I was always proud of her. She never did get up for that.

Ellen: Well, they probably weren't married. They didn't have the responsibility of being married.

Loyal: We still have some youngsters from Tridell. They'll come down here, with this new road, that oil is going to let em' slip across this highway. Two or three girls a year ago, they go over there and hit that gravel road. Man they would go across that highway. I don't know, they don't start stoppin' up there. They wait till they get right to the stop sign. They either hit into the field or go on down to the gravel road. We've had a couple of bad wrecks there. I'm worried about it. Gene, he stopped and is worried about it.

Ellen: Well anyway, we have been about two hours. What else can you kids tell me. This has been such a treat to get to know you.

Odean: You've just remind me of Sonya [Searle Seeley] in you smile. She'll look at me just like that.

Ellen: It must be that Searle look. It has been lovely.

Odean: I was a little worried.

Ellen: I'm sorry that you were worried about this. I do want you to think about if you have forgotten anything and write those things down and I'll come back and take some photos.